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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Resource requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions deferred action on the post and non-post resources proposed for the Office of Internal Oversight Services pending the submission of the report on governance and oversight, which would include a detailed review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services as part of the United Nations machinery.

The General Assembly is requested to provide interim resources for the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, pending its consideration of the report. The provision of resources will ensure the continuation of the oversight responsibility of the Office over the United Nations peacekeeping activities. A total of $21,847,300 is proposed for the continuation of Office of Internal Oversight Services activities in respect of peacekeeping operations in the forthcoming financial year. The resources proposed comprise the following:

(a) Maintenance of the resource level for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and continuation of general temporary assistance approved in 2005/06, recosted using the budget parameters for the budget period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, amounting to $18,799,600. The total staffing requirements would be financed under general temporary assistance;

(b) Eleven temporary positions for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) Resident Audit Unit are proposed, inclusive of five positions that would be transferred from the UNMIS budget to the support account in accordance with established procedure, amounting to $918,800, to be funded under general temporary assistance;

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(c) Additional resources of $2,128,900, as requested in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. In line with the interim nature of these requests, general temporary assistance is proposed instead of posts.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly is presented in section II of the present note.

I. Background

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 115 of its report on the proposed budget for the support account for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/807), recommended deferring action on the post and non-post resources proposed for the Office of Internal Oversight Services pending the analysis and proposals of the detailed review of the Office contained in the report on the ongoing evaluation of governance and oversight, which was expected to be submitted by 31 May 2006.

2. It is expected that the report will be submitted in the third week of June 2006 for consideration by the General Assembly. At this stage, it is not clear whether the Assembly will be in a position to consider and take action on the report during the second part of its resumed sixtieth session. Since the resource requirements for peacekeeping operations, inclusive of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, will be approved by the Assembly during the second part of its resumed sixtieth session, it is imperative that the Office of Internal Oversight Services be provided with resources on an interim basis to continue its peacekeeping-related work, pending decisions the General Assembly may take on governance and oversight in the United Nations. The proposed resources totalling $21,847,300, comprise three elements, presented in sections A to C below.

A. Maintenance of the appropriation approved for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

3. As an interim measure, it is proposed that the appropriation approved for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 be maintained for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The approved staffing level of 92 temporary posts will be costed using the budget parameters of the budget period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and financed as temporary positions under general temporary assistance, pending action to be taken by the General Assembly on governance and oversight.

4. In addition to the 92 temporary positions, it is proposed to continue 31 temporary positions for the investigative capacity in the peacekeeping missions, as well as for a total of two months of maternity and sick-leave replacement. This would be offset by the abolition of four temporary posts due to the liquidation of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. The total cost amounts to $16,397,800.

5. In respect of related non-post resources for facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology, the application of updated standard costs would reduce the resource requirements from $592,300 in 2005/06 to $485,500 in 2006/07. Maintenance level from 2005/06 is requested for consultants ($415,000), official travel ($1,455,400) and other supplies, services and equipment ($45,900).

6. The centrally administered costs of $212,000 included in facilities and infrastructure for the budget period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, as reflected in the table below, will be allotted to the Executive Office of the Department of Management, in accordance with established procedure.

7. In summary, the cost implications of this proposal are as follows, in United States dollars:

	Approved for 2005/06	*Proposed for 2006/07 after recosting*
International and national staff	13 976 000	—
General temporary assistance	4 998 000	16 397 800
Subtotal, posts/general temporary assistance	**18 974 000**	**16 397 800**
Consultants	415 000	415 000
Official travel	1 455 400	1 455 400
Facilities and infrastructure[a]	491 100	393 500
Communications	45 200	58 500
Information technology	56 000	33 500
Other services, supplies and equipment	45 900	45 900
Subtotal, non-post excluding general temporary assistance	**2 508 600**	**2 401 800**
Total	**21 091 900**	**18 799 600**
Staff assessment	2 373 300	1 845 800

[a] Including centrally managed costs (rental costs and alteration of premises).

B. Resources for the resident auditor capacity in the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

8. In addition to the resources proposed in section A above, resources are requested for the proposed transfer of five resident auditor positions from the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) budget to the support account budget for peacekeeping operations and the establishment of six additional positions relating to the Resident Audit Unit for UNMIS. As an interim measure, it is proposed that general temporary assistance be provided for these 11 positions. In summary, the cost implications of these additional 11 temporary positions are as follows, in United States dollars:

	Proposed for 2006/07
General temporary assistance	874 600
Communications	15 500
Information technology	28 700
Total	**918 800**
Staff assessment	75 900

9. For budgeting purposes, a vacancy rate of 50 per cent is applied to the costing of the six new positions under general temporary assistance, while the five positions proposed to be transferred from the UNMIS budget were budgeted at full incumbency.

C. Additional resources requested in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

10. Additional resources for the Office of Internal Oversight Services have been requested in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/727). As an interim measure, it is proposed that the additional resources be approved and the staffing requirements be financed under general temporary assistance as temporary positions. The proposed temporary positions are:

(a) One P-4, one P-3 and one General Service (Other level) for the establishment of a Resident Auditor Coordination Section (A/60/727, paras. 439-441);

(b) Strengthening of the Headquarters Audit Section with one P-3 and one General Service (Other level) (paras. 442-444);

(c) Strengthening of the Executive Office with two General Service (Other level) (paras. 445-446);

(d) Strengthening of the resident auditor unit in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with one P-4 and one General Service (Other level) (para. 448 (b));

(e) Restoration of four Audit Assistant posts in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (1 national General Service), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (1 national General Service), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (1 national General Service) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (1 General Service (Other level)) (para. 448 (c));

(f) Provision of four months of general temporary assistance to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division equivalent to General Service (Other level).

11. The total general temporary assistance resources for these 2006/07 requirements would be $923,200, and related costs of facilities and infrastructure would amount to $236,400. Costs for communications and information technology would, with the application of updated cost parameters for all Office of Internal Oversight Services staff in the peacekeeping missions, amount to $281,200.

12. The centrally administered costs of $187,400 included in facilities and infrastructure for the budget period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, as reflected in the table below, will be allotted to the Executive Office of the Department of Management, in accordance with established procedure.

13. In summary, the resource requirements set out above and the provision for consultants, official travel and other services are as follows, in United States dollars:

	Proposed for 2006/07
General temporary assistance	923 200
Consultants	215 400
Official travel	322 800
Facilities and infrastructure[a]	236 400
Communications	115 700
Information technology	165 500
Other services, supplies and equipment	149 900
Total	**2 128 900**
Staff assessment	122 900

[a] Including centrally managed costs (rental costs and alterations of premises).

II. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

14. The General Assembly is requested to take the following actions:

(a) Approve resources totalling $21,847,300 as an interim measure for the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the support account for 2006/07, comprising:

(i) Non-post resources of $18,799,600 for the continuation of 2005/06 approved resources in 2006/07, inclusive of general temporary assistance to finance 119 temporary positions;

(ii) Non-post resources of $918,800 for general temporary assistance to finance 11 temporary positions in the Resident Audit Unit in UNMIS;

(iii) Non-post resources of $2,128,900 for 2006/07 additional requirements, inclusive of resources for general temporary assistance to finance 13 temporary positions;

(b) Include the amount of $21,847,300 in the resources for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.